

**City of San Diego  
MEDICAL MARIJUANA TASK FORCE**

**MEETING SUMMARY FOR  
FRIDAY, JULY 20, 2001 @ 12 NOON**

**EXECUTIVE COMPLEX - 5<sup>TH</sup> FLOOR  
1010 SECOND AVENUE**

(For Information contact Ed Plank,  
Task Force staff, 619-236-6433)

Attendance:

The following Task Force members were in attendance: St. Clair Adams, Dale Kelly Bankhead, Michael Bartelmo, Dr. Al Best, Larry Chaidez, Juliana Humphrey, Steve McWilliams, Jerry Meier, Dr. Daniel Pearce, Ann Shanahan-Walsh. Staff: Lt. Carl Black, Alison Glennon, Ed Plank

**SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS:**

**Patient/Doctor Issues Subcommittee**

Ann Shanahan-Walsh discussed the subcommittee's plans for using surveys to gather information from patients and medical providers on their knowledge and access to medical marijuana under Prop 215. The surveys will be distributed to the Task Force members for comment before being sent out. Ann suggested a City news release be coordinated with the distribution of the surveys to assure individuals and hopefully increase participation. St. Clair Adams has joined the subcommittee.

**Law Enforcement Subcommittee**

St. Clair Adams reported there are not a lot of arrests or prosecutions where a medical marijuana defense is stated, and noted the Police Department has specially trained officers who are called in to handle cases where the situation is not clear. The subcommittee will work with Police Department to review specific statistics.

Lt. Carl Black reported that over the past 2 years there have been 10 instances where the medical marijuana defense was raised. Charges were filed in 3 of these instances based on police investigation. Task Force discussion ensued over the use of handcuffs. Lt. Black stated that when individuals are arrested they are handcuffed. The subcommittee will further discuss and review this practice.

The subcommittee intends to meet with the City Attorney and District Attorney representatives. Dale Kelly Bankhead noted the many jurisdictions and agencies that are involved. There is also interest in having Chief Bejarano communicate with the Chief's Group on this issue. Steve McWilliams mentioned

his meeting with the Deputy Mayor and Chief of Police in Escondido to discuss the medical marijuana topic.

Task Force discussion ensued over the concern that the emphasis is on law enforcement issues because of the number of other jurisdictions and agencies which have enforcement authority. It was noted that the Police Dept. supports the Registration Card concept and legislation.

St. Clair discussed the need for law enforcement training to provide officers with a thorough understanding of the medical use of marijuana.

The subcommittee will next meet on Thursday, August 16<sup>th</sup> from 1 to 3 in the 12<sup>th</sup> floor conference room in the City Administration Building. Michael Bartelmo has joined the Law Enforcement subcommittee.

### **Legislative Efforts Subcommittee**

Dale Bankhead summarized the subcommittee's discussion of state Senate Bill 187. The subcommittee recommended support for the legislation which would create a registry with identification cards for medical marijuana users. Medical authorization would be part of the registration process. The bill directs the State Dept of Health Services to administer the registry. Dale noted concerns over confidentiality, fees and who and how implementation details will be developed, and described a number of amendments the subcommittee would like to have considered.

The bill has passed the Senate side and there are limited opportunities for further changes. A motion to ask the City Council to support the legislation passed on a vote of 8 to 1. A proposed amendment to include the subcommittee's recommended amendments to the legislation was not seconded. Juliana Humphrey and Dale Kelly Bankhead will draft the letter to Council asking for their support of the legislation. The letter was also to be sent to the City Attorney, Police Department and the District Attorney.

Task Force discussion ensued regarding documents from the City Attorney's office which the Task Force felt over emphasized a deference to federal law. The Chair was asked to send a letter to the City Attorney pointing out these concerns.

The future work plan for the subcommittee is to gather all current relevant legislation for review. The subcommittee meets the 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of each month from 4 to 6 at 110 West C Street - 7<sup>th</sup> floor conference room. In August they will meet on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday, August 15<sup>th</sup>.

### **Medical Research Subcommittee**

It was reported that Dr. Drew Mattison has resigned from the Task Force. Michael Bartelmo reported on internet research and asked for suggestions on how to pursue researching the topic. The Task Force suggested searching under specific medical conditions. It was suggested that UCSD Medical

School could be contacted for information and advice on how to obtain information on medical marijuana research.

### **Advocacy Subcommittee**

Juliana Humphrey proposed the formation of an advocacy subcommittee to involve members of the community who have served to keep the issues associated with the medical use of marijuana in front of the community and to get them addressed. She proposed Steve McWilliams be appointed chair of this subcommittee. The motion passed unanimously.

Steve McWilliams discussed the guidelines that exist for other cities in California and stated the subcommittee will focus on these guidelines which provide health, safety and relief to users of medical marijuana. The subcommittee will tap into the state wide advocacy network to assess what guidelines exist, and what people like and don't like about them. A request was made for the subcommittee provide written objectives for the other Task Force members.

### **Public Comment**

Conley Major raised concerns over the lack of diversity of the Task Force make up and indicated an interest in participating. The Task Force expressed a desire to include greater diversity on the group. The Chair invited members of the public to participate on the subcommittees as members at large. Ed Plank will discuss the issue with Council Member Atkins office.

Barbara MacKenzie expressed concerns over the lack of information on the issue available to the Task Force and the pace at which issues are addressed. She encouraged subcommittees to expedite their efforts.

Milton Lee encouraged Task Force to consider the San Francisco mode which involved the Health Department. He suggested the Cannabis.com web site for information on the topic.

Sergio Algarme encouraged the task force to expedite its work and encouraged compassionate consideration for users of medical marijuana.